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Agriculture • Economics

Reports

From USDA's Economic Research Service

Fall 1986

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Two farm income reports
Free from ERS See P-2

Introduction

Reports is a quarterly catalog listing reports published by the economics agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. To subscribe to this free publication, send your name and address to Reports, USDA-EMS Information, Rm. 237, 1301 New York Avenue, Washington, DC 20005-4788.

The new titles listed in this issue of Reports are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Use the order form on page 9 to order your copies.

Free from ERS

Farmers' Cash Flow Better, But Equity Positions Eroded

These new reports from ERS on farmers' financial characteristics assess the situation now facing American agriculture.

Farmers' cash flow positions improved during 1985 largely because of continued direct government payments and greatly increased Commodity Credit Corporation loans. But farmers' equity declined and their debt/asset ratios rose due to declining land values.

Prospects for 1986 call for little change in operators' income and further slow deterioration in their equity. Larger direct Government payments and reduced production expenses will essentially offset lower marketing receipts. But continued declines in asset values, particularly land values, will more than offset lower operator debt.

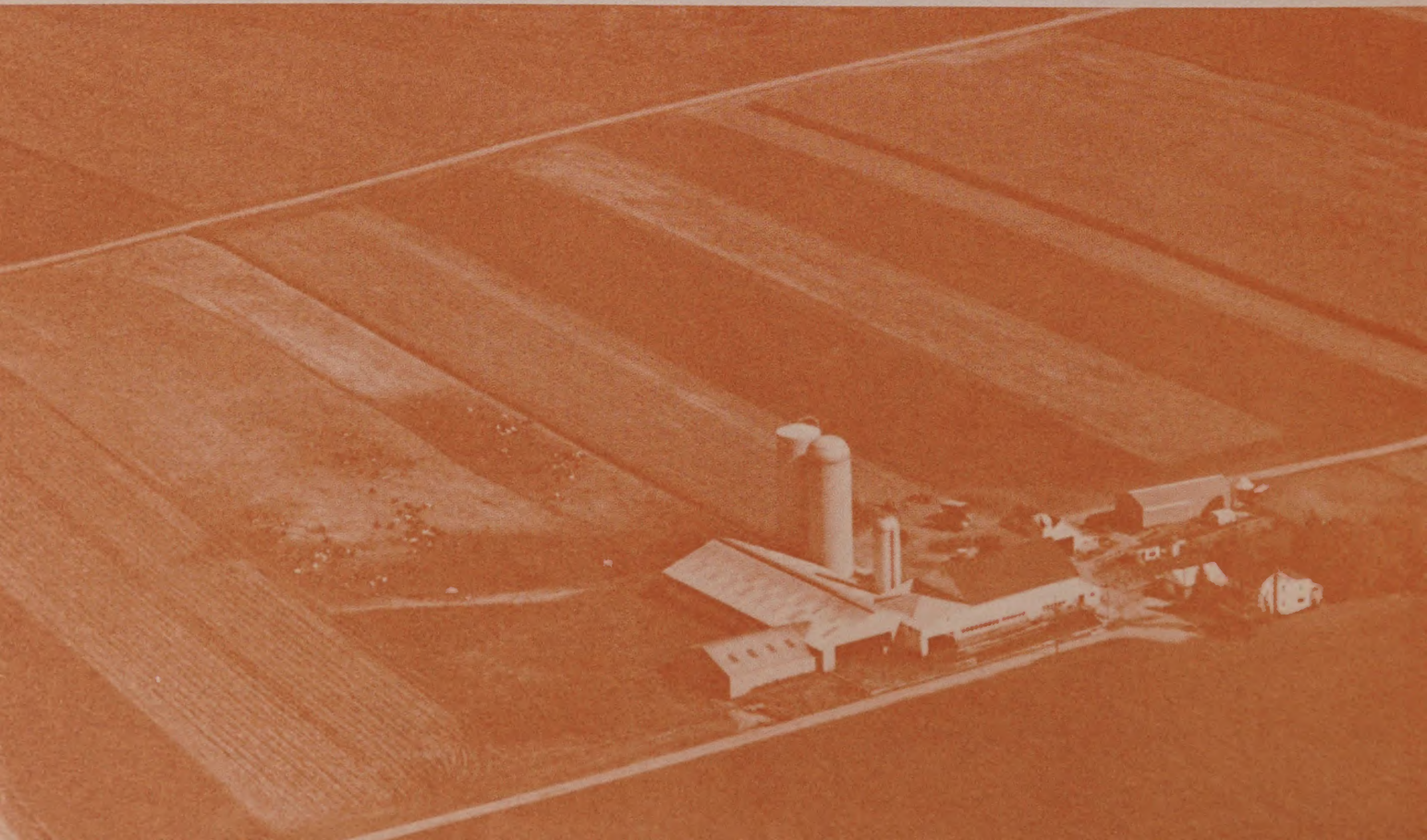
Those results of USDA's annual Farm Costs and Returns Survey, conducted in January 1986, are from *Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms, January 1, 1986*, AIB-500, available free while supplies last from the Economic Research Service (ERS).

Agriculture does not have an income problem today as much as it has a problem of absorbing large capital losses. The farm sector's problems center on capital losses and are particularly painful to those farmers whose investment debt is threatened by declining equity values, especially as farmland values decline.

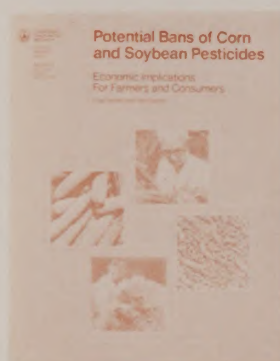
The farm crisis reflects the panic and pain associated with facing up to the reality of the loss, uncertainty about who will ultimately bear the loss, and lowered expectations about future market prospects.

Farm Sector Financial Problems: Another Perspective, AIB-499, looks at the nature of the farm sector's financial problems and explains the essential difference between current income and longer term capital adjustments.

To obtain your free copies of the above reports, send your name, address, and the complete titles of the reports to ERS Publications Office, USDA, Room 208, 1301 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-4788.

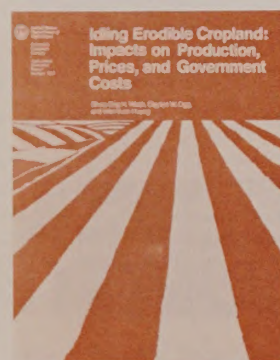


Natural Resource Issues



Potential Bans of Corn and Soybean Pesticides: Economic Implications for Farmers and Consumers, by Craig Osteen and Fred Kuchler. AER-546. April 1986. 28 pp. \$1.50. Order SN: 001-019-00438-0 from GPO.

Through cost and yield assessments, finds that removing corn and soybean pesticides with environmental and safety risks from the market could increase U.S. farm production costs, crop prices, farm incomes, and consumer expenditures, causing farmers to gain and consumers to lose.



Idling Erodible Cropland: Impacts on Production, Prices, and Government Costs, by Shwu-Eng H. Webb, Clayton W. Ogg, and Wen-Yuan Huang. AER-550. April 1986. 40 pp. \$2.00. Order SN: 001-019-00443-6 from GPO.

This study developed land group criteria that link productivity with potential soil erodibility, identifying 32 million acres of U.S. cropland as highly erodible and fragile. Finds

that a Government program to put erodible land into a conservation reserve would reduce erosion.



Swampbusting: Wetland Conversion and Farm Programs, by Ralph E. Heimlich and Linda L. Langner. AER-551. June 1986. 40 pp. \$2.00. Order SN: 001-019-00459-2 from GPO.

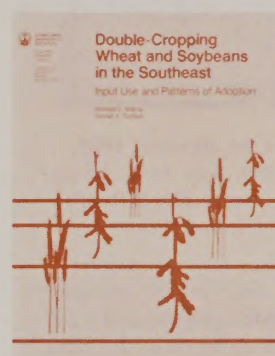
Investigates implications of the swampbuster provision (or wetland conservation provision) of the 1985 Food Security Act. Includes background on past losses of wetlands, describes characteristics of remaining wetlands, and analyzes their potential for agricultural conversion.



Trends in Double Cropping, by Roger W. Hexem and Robert F. Boxley. AER-553. June 1986. 20 pp. \$1.25. Order SN: 001-019-00462-2 from GPO.

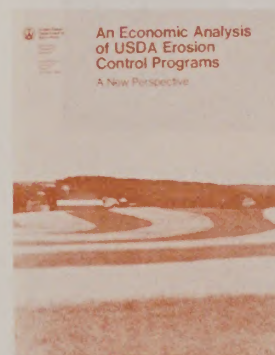
U.S. farmers increased double-cropped acreage from 5.8 to 12.4 million acres during 1974-82, from 1.9 percent of

all acres harvested in 1974 to nearly 4 percent in 1982. Double cropping was expanding because of rising commodity prices and producers' adoption of advanced technologies in plant varieties and farming practices.



Double-Cropping Wheat and Soybeans in the Southeast: Input Use and Patterns of Adoption, by Michele C. Marra and Gerald A. Carlson. AER-552. June 1986. 24 pp. \$1.25. Order SN: 001-019-00453-3 from GPO.

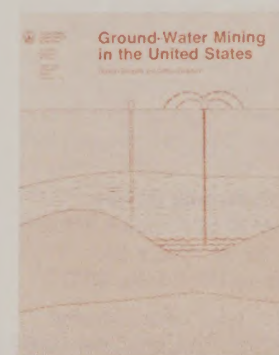
Gives State data for double-cropping and examines factors that caused the year-to-year expansions and contractions in double-cropped acres since the seventies.



An Economic Analysis of USDA Erosion Control Programs: A New Perspective, by Roger Strohbehn. AER-560. August 1986. 80 pp. \$3.75. Order SN: 001-019-00448-7.

Provides new information on offsite benefits and the joint

conservation and production benefits resulting from conservation investments, with insights into the nature of conservation programs.



Ground-Water Mining in the United States, by Gordon Sloggett and Clifford Dickason. AER-555. August 1986. 24 pp. \$1.25. Order SN: 001-019-00484-3 from GPO.

Defines regions of ground-water mining, including areas and crops irrigated, rates of ground-water decline, and pumping lifts. Also reports probable impact of declining water levels for selected mining areas with respect to higher pumping costs, reduced well yields, and adoption of irrigation technology.

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Food Marketing



Food Marketing Review, 1985. AER-549. March 1986. 64 pp. \$3.00. Order SN: 001-019-00455-0 from GPO.

Analyzes food manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, and food service during 1985. Because the food marketing system benefits from a low-inflation economy which allows costs to be held down, 1985 was a stable year as farm prices fell and wages and marketing costs increased moderately.



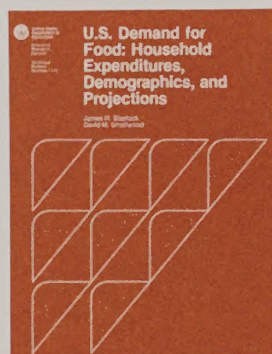
Specialty Grocery Wholesaling: Structure and Performance, by Walter B. Epps. AER-547. March 1986. 24 pp. \$1.00. Order SN: 001-019-00435-5 from GPO.

Specialty grocery merchants sell more food at wholesale than any other group of wholesale vendors, according to this benchmark study of the industry. A typical such merchant supplies perishable food, runs a low-volume wholesale operation with few employees, handles one product line, trades with other wholesale vendors, and offers specialized services.



Food Cost Review, 1985. AER-559. July 1986. 56 pp. \$2.75. Order SN: 001-019-00477-1 from GPO.

Discusses how much food prices rose in 1985 and why, how much of the retail food price is returned to the farm, and how farm-to-retail price spreads changed last year for a market basket of foods. Also shows how much Americans spend for farm-produced foods and how these dollars are divided among costs of producing and marketing food.

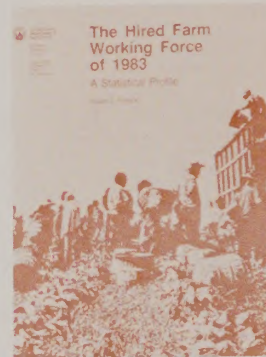


U.S. Demand for Food: Household Expenditures, Demographics, and Projections, by James R. Blaylock and David M. Smallwood. TB-1713. February 1986. 60 pp. \$2.25. Order SN: 001-019-00436-3 from GPO.

Finds that higher income households spend more per person on most food groups, especially beef, fish, cheese, vegetables, butter, and alcoholic beverages, than do lower income households. Elderly

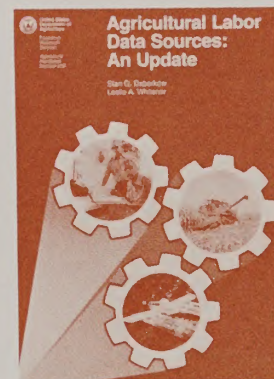
The Farm Sector

Americans spend less than younger people on food away from home and alcoholic beverages.



The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983: A Statistical Profile, by Susan L. Pollack. AER-554. June 1986. 52 pp. \$2.50. Order SN: 001-019-00457-6 from GPO.

Focuses on characteristics of racial/ethnic, regional, and migratory groups of farmworkers, a group numbering about 2.6 million in 1983.



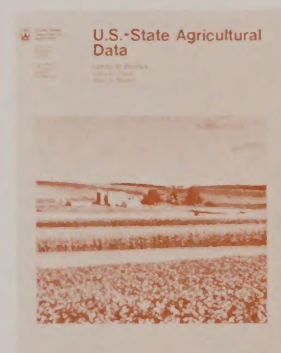
Agricultural Labor Data Sources: An Update, by Stan G. Daberkow and Leslie A. Whitener. AH-658. August 1986. 32 pp. \$1.75. Order SN: 001-019-00467-3 from GPO.

Identifies, describes, and compares various data sources for the agricultural work force, and alerts the reader to differences in data sources which complicate comparisons.



Assessment of a Marketing Order Prorate Suspension: A Study of California-Arizona Navel Oranges, by Nicholas J. Powers, Glenn A. Zepp, and Frederic L. Hoff. AER-557. June 1986. 44 pp. \$2.25. Order SN: 001-019-00470-3 from GPO.

Compares orange price and shipment data for 1984/85 with comparable weeks of several prorate periods. Finds that the market for California-Arizona navel oranges performed in about the same way during the 1984/85 season after the handler prorate was suspended as during comparable prorate periods.



U.S.-State Agricultural Data, by Letricia M. Womack, Larry G. Traub, and Mary H. Rivers. AIB-501. August 1986. 108 pp. \$4.75. Order SN: 001-019-00479-7.

Presents agricultural information for each of the 50 States and the United States, including data on population, land use, agricultural production, farm income, value of assets on farms, and selected characteristics of farms such as size, tenure, and farm organization.



The U.S. Farm Sector in the Mid-1980's, by Donn A. Reimund, Nora L. Brooks, and Paul D. Velde. AER-548. May 1986. 52 pp. \$2.50. Order SN: 001-019-00441-0 from GPO.

Presents changes in the farm sector for a number of variables (income, wealth, ownership, organization, and concentration of production) adjusted for inflation to document actual changes between 1974 and 1982. Also presents economic profiles of typical farms by region for major commodities.



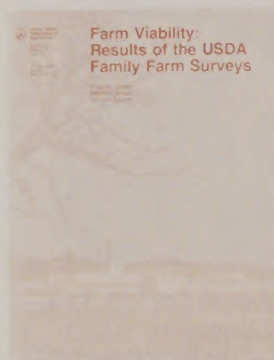
Farm Income Data: A Historical Perspective, by Gary Lucier, Agnes Chesley, and Mary Ahearn. SB-740. May 1986. 320 pp. \$15.00. Order SN: 001-019-00458-4 from GPO.

Presents various economic time series relating to national, regional, and State farm income statistics. Includes data series for State-level cash receipts and production expenses by major components from 1949-84.



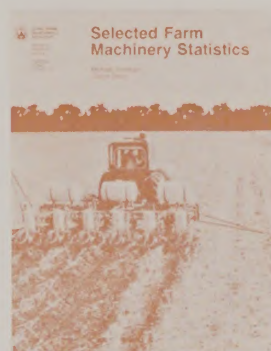
Florida and Mexico Competition for the Winter Fresh Vegetable Market, by Katharine C. Buckley, John J. Van-Sickle, Maury E. Bredahl, Emil Belibasis, and Nicholas Gutierrez. AER-556. June 1986. 112 pp. \$5.00. Order SN: 001-019-00474-6.

Determines the cost competitive position of Florida and Mexico in supplying fresh tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, and green beans to U.S. markets during the 1984/85 production season. Also discusses changes in production technology in the two areas.



Farm Viability: Results of the USDA Family Farm Surveys, by Priscilla Salant, Melinda Smale, and William Saupe. RDRR-60. July 1986. 28 pp. \$1.50. Order SN: 001-019-00456-8 from GPO.

Analyzes the financial well-being of farm households in 29 Mississippi and Tennessee counties in 1980 and in 8 Wisconsin counties in 1982, and evaluates both public and private options for easing financial stress.



Selected Farm Machinery Statistics, by Michael Hawthorn and Carlos Sisco. SB-743. July 1986. 60 pp. \$2.75. Order SN: 001-019-00475-4 from GPO.

Presents annual and monthly time series illustrating trends in farm machinery production, factory shipments, inventories, prices, expenditures, and trade. Pulls together a large volume of farm machinery data from several Government agencies and one industry trade organization.

Forecasting Models Reports

The following three reports present newly developed econometric models for forecasting of the U.S. agricultural sector.

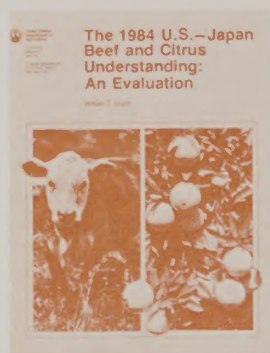
A Quarterly Forecasting Model for U.S. Agriculture: Sub-sector Models for Corn, Wheat, Soybeans, Cattle, Hogs, and Poultry, by Paul C. Westcott and David B. Hull. TB-1700. May 1985. 52 pp. \$2.00. Order SN: 001-019-00390-1 from GPO.

A Quarterly Model of the Livestock Industry, by Richard P. Stillman. TB-1711. December 1985. 40 pp. \$1.50. Order SN: 001-019-00414-2 from GPO.

A Quarterly Model of the U.S. Dairy Sector and Some of Its Policy Implications, by Paul C. Westcott. TB-1717. April 1986. 40 pp. \$2.00. Order SN: 001-019-00447-9 from GPO.



International Issues



The 1984 U.S.-Japan Beef and Citrus Understanding: An Evaluation, by William T. Coyle. FAER-227. July 1986. 44 pp. \$2.25. Order SN: 001-019-00452-5 from GPO.

A 1984 understanding between the United States and Japan tempered, at least for the time being, U.S. accusations that Japan unreasonably restricts agricultural imports. This report outlines provisions of the understanding, puts the beef and citrus issue into a historical context, and evaluates the understanding's measures in terms of how close they bring Japan's beef and citrus markets to "free trade" conditions.



Food Aid and the African Food Crisis, by Shahla Shapouri, Arthur J. Dommen, and Stacey Rosen. FAER-221. June 1986. 112 pp. \$5.00. Order SN: 001-019-00460-6.

Investigates the causes of the food crises in 11 selected African countries, analyzes the variability and slow growth in food availability, and examines why domestic resources were not adequate to support diets and prevent per capita food supplies from declining.



Methods of Reconciling World Trade Statistics, by Stephen W. Hiemstra and Arthur B. Mackie. FAER-217. May 1986. 20 pp. \$1.25. Order SN: 001-019-00444-4 from GPO.

Reviews USDA methods of editing trade data, cites examples of problems, and examines causes of data inconsistencies.

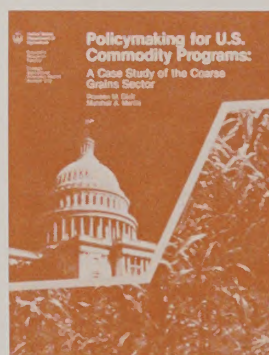
Export Market Profiles

Keep a step ahead of your competitors with the best government forecasts on commodity-specific export potential through 1990 for selected countries. Each title in this series highlights the production potential of one country's agricultural sector, major trade policies, and export potential for U.S. commodities.

South Korea: An Export Market Profile, by John H. Dyck and Donald A. Sillers. FAER-216. May 1986. 84 pp. \$4.00. Order SN: 001-019-00427-4 from GPO.

Nigeria: An Export Market Profile, by Carl Mabbs-Zeno. FAER-218. April 1986. 64 pp. \$3.00. Order SN: 001-019-00451-7 from GPO.

Mexico: An Export Market Profile, by Donna H. Roberts and Myles J. Mielke. FAER-220. May 1986. 68 pp. \$3.25. Order SN: 001-019-00440-1 from GPO.



Policymaking for U.S. Commodity Programs: A Case Study of the Coarse Grains Sector, by Praveen M. Dixit and Marshall A. Martin. FAER-219. May 1986. 32 pp. \$1.75. Order 001-019-00439-8 from GPO.

Demonstrates the extent to which commodity program loan rates and price support levels are based on market forces. Shows that policy is changed cautiously in response to short-term shifts in the economic environment.



Selected Agricultural Statistics on Spain, 1970-82, by Natalie Tawil, Athena Hyson, Janet Sayre, and Stephen W. Hiemstra. SB-742. July 1986. 156 pp. \$7.50. Order SN: 001-019-00472-0 from GPO.

Summarizes trends in the supply and demand for agricultural products in Spain during 1970-82 (and more recent years when data are available), including population, labor force, wages, income, prices, farm structure, crop and livestock production, food consumption, and farm resources.

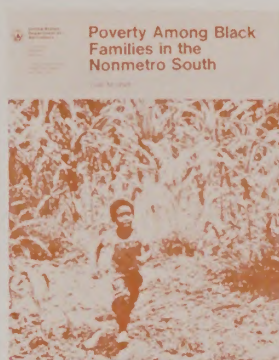


Rural Development



World Indices of Agricultural and Food Production, 1976-85. SB-744. July 1986. 172 pp. \$8.00. Order SN: 001-019-00476-1 from GPO.

Presents indices of total and per capita production for 1976-85 for 111 countries, 12 regions, and the world. World agricultural production grew at a compound annual rate of 2.1 percent since 1976, while the rate on a per capita basis was only 0.4 percent.



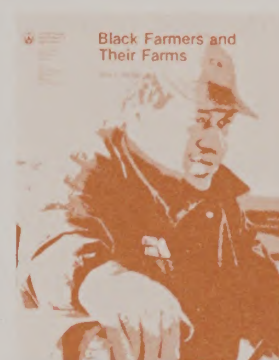
Poverty Among Black Families in the Nonmetro South, by Linda M. Ghelfi. RDRR-62. August 1986. 36 pp. \$1.75. Order SN: 001-019-00454-1 from GPO.

Examines labor force participation and other characteristics of poor black family householders and adults in the nonmetro South. There were 1.1 million black families living in nonmetro areas in 1980, 1 million (93 percent) of whom lived in the South.



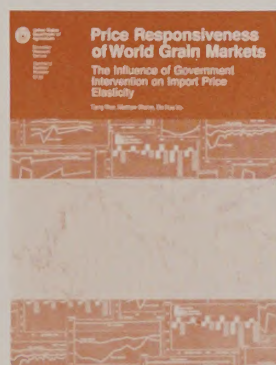
Social and Economic Environment of Black Farmers, by Robert A. Hoppe, Herman Bluestone, and Virginia K. Getz. RDRR-61. August 1986. 24 pp. \$1.25. Order SN: 001-019-00463-1 from GPO.

Identifies 342 southern counties that had at least 25 black farmers each. Finds that black farmers tend to live in slowly growing southern counties where nonfarm employment opportunities are limited.



Black Farmers and Their Farms, by Vera J. Banks. RDRR-59. July 1986. 36 pp. \$2.00. Order SN: 001-019-00449-5 from GPO.

Reviews historical trends and examines the recent key characteristics of black farmers, who represented less than 2 percent of the Nation's 2.2 million farmers in 1982.



Price Responsiveness of World Grain Markets: The Influence of Government Intervention on Import Price Elasticity, by Terry Roe, Mathew Shane, and De Huu Vo. TB-1720. June 1986. 32 pp. \$1.75. Order SN: 001-019-00466-5 from GPO.

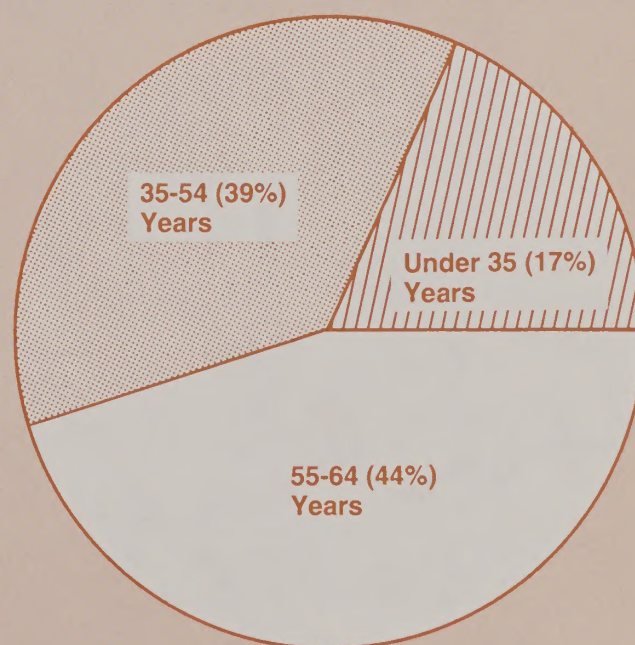
Analyzes the effect of government intervention on import behavior, concluding that such intervention fundamentally alters the character and composition of agricultural trade.



The Mid-Atlantic Region in Transition: Employment Trends, 1974-84, by Theodore E. Fuller. RDRR-57. April 1986. 20 pp. \$1.25. Order SN: 001-019-00445-2 from GPO.

This study measures the extent of the Mid-Atlantic's economic lag. The region's total employment growth lagged national averages from 1974-84 because of its higher share of slow-growth manufacturing industries and its lagging employment growth in all major economic sectors.

Almost Half of Small Full-Time Farmers Nearing Retirement



From the October 1986 issue of *Rural Development Perspectives*. See page 8.

ERS Periodicals from GPO

Order the following periodicals from GPO, using the order form on page 10.



Agricultural Economics Research. Quarterly journal; averages 52 pages per issue. Subscription \$13.00 domestic; \$16.25 foreign.

This journal reports the latest in technical research, econometric models, and statistics focusing on methodology.



Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States. 6 issues per year plus two supplements; averages 124 pages per issue. Subscription \$26.00 domestic; \$32.50 foreign.

FATUS reports the quantity and value of farm exports and imports, plus price trends. Two annual supplements provide over 500 pages of calendar and fiscal year data.



Rural Development Perspectives. 3 issues per year; averages 44 pages per issue. Subscription \$10.00 domestic; \$12.50 foreign.

Conveys in a crisp, nontechnical manner the chief results of new rural research and what those results mean for you. Shows the practical application of research in rural banking, aging, housing, the nonmetro labor force, and poverty. Includes a section of charts and maps measuring various rural conditions.

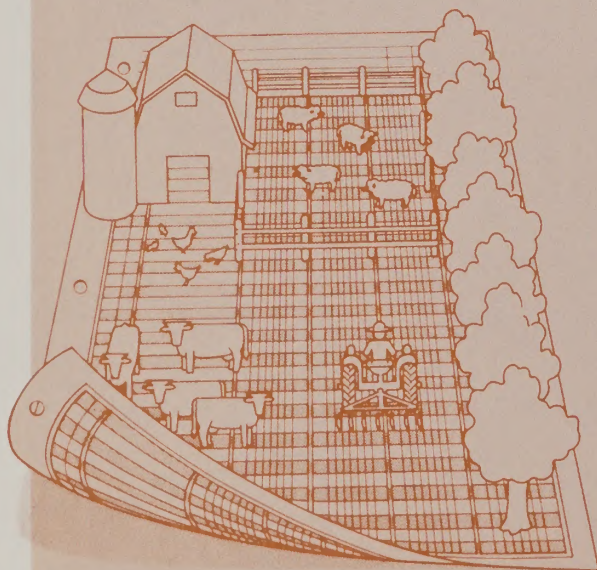
Situation and Outlook Reports

Situation and outlook reports provide timely analyses and forecasts of all major agricultural commodities and related topics such as finance, farm inputs, land values, and world and regional developments. Reports dealing with specific commodities focus on production and supply, domestic and foreign demand, and price relationships. A full complement of tabular material and charts keeps readers up to date on all facets of production and marketing. The reports frequently feature special articles of related interest such as trade developments, changes in commodity programs, and recent research findings.

See the GPO order form for other titles in the situation and outlook series.

For more information on the ERS situation and outlook program, phone Diane Decker at (202) 786-1494.

Farm Costs of Production Down, But Earnings Off, Too



Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector. Series of 5 annual issues; averages more than 100 pages of statistics and analysis per issue. Subscription \$19.00 domestic; \$23.75 foreign.

The costs of producing most crops and livestock declined in 1985. Costs of capital replacement—investment in buildings and machinery—also fell for most farmers. Lower market prices nevertheless yielded reduced earnings to most crop growers and many livestock and milk producers.

“Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector: Costs of Production, 1985,” available from GPO in September 1986, highlights economic factors affecting farm enterprises and tells which commodities profited or lost and why.

This report, the first in the 1985 “Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector” series, estimates average annual production costs and returns for major agricultural commodities. Other reports in the ECIFS series are “Farm Sector Review,” “National Financial Summary,” “State Financial Summary,” and “Production and Efficiency Statistics.”

GPO Order Form

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	Swampbusting: Wetland Conversion and Farm Programs	001-019-00459-2	\$2.00
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	Double-Cropping Wheat and Soybeans in the Southeast: Input Use and Patterns of Adoption	001-019-00453-3	\$1.25
	An Economic Analysis of USDA Erosion Control Programs: A New Perspective	001-019-00448-7	\$3.75
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	U.S. State-Agricultural Data	001-019-00479-7	\$4.75
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	A Quarterly Model of the Livestock Industry	001-019-00414-2	\$1.50
	A Quarterly Model of the U.S. Dairy Sector and Some of Its Policy Implications	001-019-00447-9	\$2.00
	A Quarterly Forecasting Model for U.S. Agriculture: Subsector Models for Corn, Wheat, Soybeans, Cattle, Hogs, and Poultry	001-019-00390-1	\$2.00

Rural Development

Qty.	Title	Stock no.	Price
	The Mid-Atlantic Region in Transition: Employment Trends, 1974-84	001-019-00445-2	\$1.25
	Poverty Among Black Families in the Nonmetro South	001-019-00454-1	\$1.75
	Black Farmers and Their Farms	001-019-00449-5	\$2.00
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ERS Periodicals from GPO

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Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States	\$26.00	\$32.50
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Situation and Outlook Reports

Title	Issues per year	Domestic Price	Qty.	Foreign Price	Qty.
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World Agriculture	4	15.00		18.75	
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